

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9464

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, UR

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE TO VISIT USSR

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
BHEKH THAPA WILL LEAVE SEPTEMBER 20 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT
TO THE USSR. THE VISIT, THE FIRST OF A NEPALESE MINISTER
SINCE 1968, WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THAPA'S TRIP TO THE FRG
AND JUST PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO THE U.S.

2. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THAPA'S VISIT IS NEPALESE
REACTION TO SOVIET CHAGRIN AT LACK OF HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL
VISITS TO USSR. SOVIETS ARE AWARE THAT FEW NEPALESE
DELEGATIONS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRIPS ABROAD TO VISIT USSR.
ALTHOUGH PRESS STORIES ON TRIP POINT OUT THAT SOVIET AID TO
NEPAL IS NOT IN PROPORTION EITHER TO ITS ECONOMIC
POTENTIAL NOR TO LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THAPA WILL REPORTEDLY FOCUS ON POLITICAL
ISSUES RATHER THAN ON SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR INCREASED AID.
CARGO

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NNN

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